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NEWS RELEASE

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HOISINGTON, KANSAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Barbara J. Nolte**, 60, Hoisington, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on January 12, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Monti L. Belot to one count of embezzlement by a bank employee from First Kansas Bank.

Melgren said that Nolte admitted at her plea that from February 19, 2002, through May 29, 2003, while an employee of First Kansas Bank, Hoisington, Kansas, she embezzled money from First Kansas Bank by creating fraudulent loans and removing IRA funds and used the money for her personal benefit. According to the FBI and bank officials, Nolte embezzled approximately \$80,090 from the First Kansas Bank.

Nolte faces a maximum of thirty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for March 29, 2004. The case was investigated by the FBI.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI in this investigation.